

VEF Worship Service – June 14th, 2020

Call to Worship	Joel 3:14-16
Worship in Song	O Church Arise
Scripture Reading	1 Samuel 16:7-7
Worship in Song	10,000 Reasons How Great is Our God
Announcements	Jeff Case
Worship in the Word <i>First Things First –Micah 6:6-8</i>	Pastor Steven Choi
Response Song	This I Believe
Benediction	Pastor Steven Choi

Announcements

Welcome back. It is good to be able to worship together in person again. For next couple of months we will be having one service time at 13:30 in B1. Please wear a mask when you are inside the church. No food or beverages are allowed in the church at this time. We will be streaming our worship services at 13:30 each Sunday on our YouTube Channel - <https://tinyurl.com/ybsv2avf>

Please continue to pray for the VEF pastor search. Pray that God would bring forth the right person to shepherd and lead VEF.

Question: "What does it mean to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly (Micah 6:8)?"

<https://www.gotquestions.org/do-justly-love-mercy-walk-humbly.html>

Answer: One of the most popular verses among both Jews and Christians promoting social justice is [Micah 6:8](#). It reads, "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Many desire to know more about what this inspiring verse teaches on the issues of justice, mercy, and humility.

[Micah 6](#) involves an imaginary conversation between the Lord and Israel. In verses 1-5 the Lord introduces His case against the disobedient people of Israel. Verses 6-7 record Israel's response as a series of questions beginning with, "With what shall I come to the Lord?" ([Micah 6:6](#)).

Israel's focus is on their external religious rites, and their questions show a progression from lesser to greater. First, they ask if God would be satisfied with burnt offerings of year-old calves ([Micah 6:6b](#)), offerings required in the Law of Moses. Second, they ask if they should bring "thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil" ([Micah 6:7a](#)). This is the rhetoric of hyperbole; such an offering could only be made by someone extremely wealthy or by the larger community of God's people. Third, they ask whether they should offer their firstborn sons as a sacrifice for God. Would that be enough to cover their sin? Would God be pleased with them then?

Verse 8 follows with God's answer, rooted in the Law of Moses: "He has told you, O man, what is good." In other words, Israel should already have known the answer to their questions. God then says that He did not need or desire their religious rites, sacrifices, or oblations. Instead, the Lord sought Israel's justice, mercy, and humility.

The answer to Israel's sin problem was not more numerous or more painful sacrifices. The answer was something much deeper than any religious observance: they needed a change of heart. Without the heart, Israel's conformity to the Law was nothing more than hypocrisy. Other prophets tried to communicate a similar message ([Isaiah 1:14](#); [Hosea 6:6](#); [Amos 5:21](#)). Unfortunately, God's people were slow to heed the message ([Matthew 12:7](#)).

“Act justly” would have been understood by Micah’s audience as living with a sense of right and wrong. In particular, the judicial courts had a responsibility to provide equity and protect the innocent. Injustice was a problem in Israel at that time ([Micah 2:1-2](#); [3:1-3](#); [6:11](#)).

“Love mercy” contains the Hebrew word *hesed*, which means “loyal love” or “loving-kindness.” Along with justice, Israel was to provide mercy. Both justice and mercy are foundational to God’s character ([Psalm 89:14](#)). God expected His people to show love to their fellow man and to be loyal in their love toward Him, just as He had been loyal to them ([Micah 2:8-9](#); [3:10-11](#); [6:12](#)).

“Walk humbly” is a description of the heart’s attitude toward God. God’s people depend on Him rather than their own abilities ([Micah 2:3](#)). Instead of taking pride in what we bring to God, we humbly recognize that no amount of personal sacrifice can replace a heart committed to justice and love. Israel’s rhetorical questions had a three-part progression, and verse 8 contains a similar progression. The response of a godly heart is outward (do justice), inward (love mercy), and upward (walk humbly).

The message of Micah is still pertinent today. Religious rites, no matter how extravagant, can never compensate for a lack of love ([1 Corinthians 13:3](#)). External compliance to rules is not as valuable in God’s eyes as a humble heart that simply does what is right. God’s people today will continue to desire justice, mercy, and humility before the Lord.